

Message Text

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41

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

/103 W

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R 151401Z MAR 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1261

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD MTN

SUBJECT: INFORMAL MEETING WITH EC ON UPCOMING QR SUBGROUP

1. WE MET WITH EC DEL (ABBOTT) AT THEIR REQUEST FOR
INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING QR SUBGROUP MEETING.

2. IN OPENING COMMENT, ABO TT RAISED SUBJECT OF
NEW EC DRAFT REGULATION ON COMMON IMPORT SCHEME (MTN
GENEVA 1707, EC BRUSSELS 2354) ADMITTING IT HAD
TAKEN HIM COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE AND EXPRESSING
"HOPE" THAT PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE NO MAJOR BEARING
ON MTN QR/SAFEGUARD WORK. HE NOTED THAT CONSOLIDATED
"PICTURE" OF MEMBER STATE QRS ON NON-LIBERALIZED ITEMS
WOULD IN ANY CASE BE QUITE USEFUL TO COMMISSION BUT,
IN ABSENCE OF DRAFT DOCUMENT, WAS UNCLEAR AS TO EXACTLY
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WHAT PROCEDURAL CHANGES WERE BEING PROPOSED IN

EC SURVEILLANCE/SAFEGUARD MECHANISM AND HOW THIS MIGHT AFFECT POSITIONS HE WOULD BE PRESENTING IN GENEVA ON QR'S AND SAFEGUARDS.

3. RE QR CONSULTATIONS, EC STATED IT WOULD NOT SUBMIT WRITTEN SUMMARY NOTES OF CONSULTATIONS HELD SINCE SUCH REPORTS COULD REVEAL DISCRIMINATORY NATURE OF CERTAIN QR'S MAINTAINED BY EC, PARTICULARLY AGAINST JAPAN AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. US COMMENTED ITS SUMMARY NOTES IN PROCESS OF DRAFTING FOR CONSULTATIONS ALREADY HELD, BUT THEY PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE SUBMITTED PRIOR TO NEXT MEETING.

4. US NOTED THAT IT WAS UNINSTRUCTED FOR UPCOMING MEETING BUT QUERIED EC IN REGARD TO POSSIBLE MULTILATERAL QR SOLUTIONS AND WHETHER IT HAD ANY FURTHER ELABORATIONS AS TO ROLE OF SAFEGUARDS IN QR NEGOTIATIONS. EC RESPONDED AS BEFORE THAT ANY SAFEGUARDS EXERCISE WOULD NOT ITSELF REDUCE QRS, BUT EC HOPING THAT MORE SATISFACTORY SAFEGUARD PROCEDURES WILL OPEN UP WAY FOR MORE LIBERALIZATION IN QR NEGOTIATIONS. ABBOTT STATED THAT ALTHOUGH EC HAS ATTEMPTED TO DEVELOP MULTILATERAL APPROACH TO QR'S, IT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO COME UP WITH VIABLE PROPOSALS. HE PERSONALLY WAS COMING TO CONCLUSION THAT MULTILATERAL DISCUSSION RESULTING IN ACCEPTANCE OF A GENERAL FORMULA FOR QR LIBERALIZATION WAS NOT POSSIBLE. AT THIS POINT HE COULD ONLY ENVISAGE NEGOTIATIONS "COMING DOWN TO REQUESTS AND OFFERS", REMARKING THAT "BEST WE CAN DO IS TO OFFER TO ELIMINATE SOME QRS". HE NOTED CANADIAN PROPOSAL FOR THIS PROCEDURE ON TABLE, BUT WANTED TO WAIT UNTIL FALL TO PROCEED IN THIS DIRECTION SINCE EC STILL IN PROCESS OF GATHERING INFORMATION INTERNALLY (ABBOTT OBSERVED THAT CONSULTATIONS ON SPECIFIC MEMBER STATE RESTRICTIONS OFTEN ARE AS INFORMATIVE FOR COMMISSION AS FOR NOTIFYING COUNTRY). QUESTION THAT REMAINED WAS HOW TO FILL GAP BETWEEN NOW AND AUTUMN SESSION.

5. ABBOTT MUSED THAT SUBGROUP POSSIBLY COULD BEGIN TO THINK ABOUT PROCEDURES FOR MAKING REQUESTS AND OFFERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITHOUT SETTING DATES, STUDYING TROPICAL PRODUCT PROCEDURES FOR IDEAS, AND DISCUSSING WHETHER CURRENT NOTIFICATION LISTS OR FORMAL REQUESTS SHOULD BE USED. WE STATED THAT ALTHOUGH US AGREED THAT GROUNDWORK MUST BE ESTABLISHED IN NEAR TERM TO ACHIEVE ANY OBJECTIVES WITHIN TIME FRAME OF NEGOTIATIONS, US STILL IN PROCESS OF REFINING ITS POSITIONS ON THE BEST POSSIBLE MEANS OF LIBERALIZATION AND WE HAVE NOT GIVEN UP MULTILATERAL APPROACHES.

US ALSO NOTED THAT, IN CONTRAST TO QR SUBGROUP, PRINCIPLE OF REQUESTS AND OFFERS FOR TROPICAL PRODUCTS WAS ACCEPTED AT VERY EARLY STAGE, EVEN BEFORE TROPICAL PRODUCTS GROUP ESTABLISHED, WHICH PERMITTED LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF PROCEDURES WITHOUT FIXING DATES. SUCH AGREEMENT NOT EVIDENT IN QR SUBGROUP.

6. EC REMARKED THAT CANADIAN IDEA OF LINKING QR'S WITH TRAFF NEGOTIATIONS WAS ONLY A QUESTION OF TIMING, THAT IS, NEGOTIATION ON QRS MAY DEPEND ON PROGRESS IN TARIFF GROUP. US UNDERScoreD THIS POINT BY OBSERVING THAT ANY REDUCTION IN TARIFFS NOT MEANINGFUL IF IMPORTS STILL RESTRICTED BY QRS OR, FOR THAT MATTER, ANY OTHER TYPE OF NTM.

7. EC ALSO CONFIRMED THAT IT WOULD BE HOLDING QR CONSULTATIONS WITH JAPAN WEEK OF MARCH 22 AND NOTED THAT THIS CONSULTATION AGREED TO AFTER OVERCOMING A GREAT DEAL OF RELUCTANCE ON PART OF JAPANESE. AS REPORTED MTN GENEVA 1471, THIS CONSULTATION WOULD ALSO INCLUDE PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON SAFEGUARDS.

8. US AND EC AGREED TO MEET AGAIN PRIOR TO QR SUBGROUP SESSION ONCE INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM CAPITALS. WALKER

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Draft Date: 15 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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